



Sugarland Run

District
News
April
2010

Supervisor Susan Klimek Buckley

Vice Chairman Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

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Photo by Karen Jones Niedringhaus, Potomac Heritage Trail Association

Weather in the 50s made the perfect backdrop for the April 10 Cleanup Day at Algonkian Regional Park and the Sugarland Run.

Success!

Cleanup Day Nets Nearly a Ton of Trash



The 70+ participants in the April 10 Cleanup Day collected 1,480 pounds of trash, which would fill 10 cubic feet - including three tires and two large plastic barrels. The biggest single piece of trash collected was a refrigerator.

"Algonkian Regional Park is a tremendous community asset. What fantastic turnout by our community organizations; I cannot thank them enough for

their support," Supervisor Susan Buckley said.

Members of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Dominion High School, Loudoun County Government, Christian Fellowship Church, the Alice Ferguson Foundation, River Bend Middle School, Loudoun County Skate Project, joined members of sponsoring organizations Rotary Club of Sterling, the Potomac

Heritage Trail Association, Algonkian Regional Park and Supervisor Susan Buckley's Office, to clean up not only the banks of the Potomac River in Algonkian Regional Park, but also the Sugarland Run. The Sugarland Run is part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, so beyond the aesthetic value of the cleanup, participants were helping improve water quality in the Bay.

Budget Season Winds Down

Thank you to all who contacted me during the budget process. Hearing views from residents throughout the county was very helpful as I considered the budget choices.

My office received more than 3,800 emails concerning budget issues, more than 2,300 of which supported full funding for Loudoun County Public

Schools.

In the end, the Board voted to set the tax rate at \$1.30, cutting an extra \$19 million out of the schools' budget - a cut that I felt would have too great of an impact on the education of our children.

Now, however, it's time to look forward. This month's newsletter talks

about several of the issues that will be coming in front of the Board during the next few months. Please read through the issues and feel free to contact my office to share your views. I enjoy hearing from you!

Yours,

Looking Forward...

...To 21st Century Education

The Joint Board/School Board Committee will discuss the implications of a 21st Century Education in Loudoun County. A hot topic right now for school officials across the country, the tenants of a 21st Century Education engage the business community along with educators to agree on skills needed in the next century's workforce. The partnership with the business community is just one component of the approach, which looks to change the learning environment to make it more active and research-driven, with greater student freedom – and high expectations – as students work together to analyze “real” information within the “real” world.

Supervisor Buckley has added virtual classrooms and online learning as an agenda topic for discussion in the joint committee. She feels that online education will become an important aspect of K-12 public education, addressing quality of curriculum and capacity issues.

...To Environment, Transportation, Kincora

While the budget has been the Board of Supervisors' focus for many months, the three months between now and the August break are jam-packed with important legislative endeavors including new water quality protection regulations related to the Chesapeake Bay (article later in this issue), the revised Countywide Transportation Plan and Kincora land use application. Kincora is the potential development at the intersection of Routes 28 and 7. The Countywide Transportation Plan is a blueprint for road, pedestrian and bike path improvements for the next 20 years. It places an emphasis on improving connectivity while utilizing transit-oriented development and planning for Metro.

In the Community

Supervisor Buckley has met with many citizens at homeowners association meetings and community events. She would like to meet with your group, too. To arrange a visit, please call her office at 703-771-5033.



Supervisor Susan Buckley spoke to a packed house at the Cascades Senior Center March 12.

Buckley Discusses Budget with Seniors

In March, Supervisor Susan Buckley visited the Cascades Senior Center to give seniors an update on the budget situation and listen to their concerns about taxes and the issues they face during these difficult economic times, fulfilling her campaign promise to return to the Center regularly. It was Supervisor Buckley's third visit to the Center.

“While the budget book appears to be about numbers, it is really about people. There is a face attached to every line item, people who rely on county services,” Supervisor Buckley said.

During her campaign, she promised to solicit their input on important county issues. The Cascades singers serenaded her with a political tune, putting their budget requests to song. The Cascades Senior Center serves 85-100 lunches per day with an average of 330 people using the center daily.

Van Metre Donates Land to GMU

Van Metre Companies has donated 37 acres of land in Broadlands to the George Mason University – all within a mile of the future Metro station at the intersection of the Dulles Greenway and Waxpool Road.

Supervisor Susan Buckley views the additional possibility of a Loudoun George Mason University campus as a boon to the community and was

involved from the first step of the planning process.

“I am delighted that Van Metre donated land to GMU. Having a greater GMU presence here in Loudoun will be an economic driver for our community, an outstanding resource for our students and a strong long-term partner for the community,” Supervisor Susan Buckley said.

Me-Time Kicks Off at Seneca Ridge

A few months ago, the Loudoun Diversity Council contacted Supervisor Susan Buckley about an exciting program called Me-Time. She was happy to introduce the group to the Seneca Ridge Middle School's PTO and staff. The Me-Time program is off to an exciting start at Seneca Ridge.

Me-Time Middle Kickoff, held March 17, was quite successful with 15 middle school students, Loudoun Diversity Council Members, PTO Vice President Wendy Newman and Assistant Principal Bill Gulgert of Seneca Ridge Middle all in attendance. Academic Coaches came out from Dominion High School as well as Northern Virginia Community College. Me-Time organizers said that the enthusiasm was wonderful and the students came as willing and active participants. They are expecting wonderful things from this amazing group!

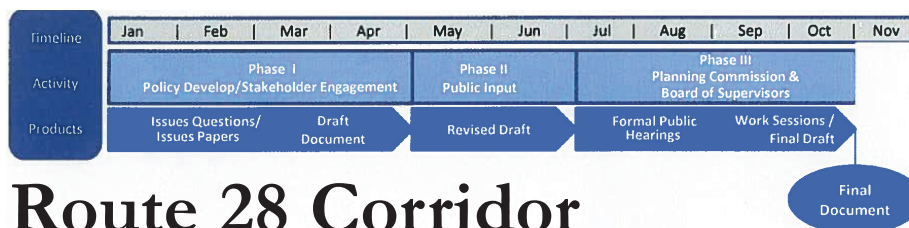
The Loudoun Diversity Council is a non-profit created to help eliminate the achievement gap existing in our school systems. The Council educates through community-oriented

For More Information

- **Phone:** 703-728-9275
- **Email:** loudoundiversity@verizon.net
- **Online:** www.loudoundiversitycouncil.org

education projects such as the Me-Time Program where local educators, parents, high-school students, as well as Loudoun Diversity Council members, serve as tutors.

Me-Time Middle at Seneca Ridge is an extension of the Me-Time offered for other elementary and high school students. Me-Time at Seneca Ridge focuses on math skill improvements in one-on-one and small group academic coaching. The program is funded through donations made to Loudoun Diversity Council, PTO and member contributions and is run solely by the volunteerism of parents, educators and students in the Loudoun community.



Route 28 Corridor Research Project on Track

The Board of Supervisors is considering whether to change the Keynote Employment policies in the Route 28 corridor.

Supervisor Buckley observed the first facilitated work session where she listened to stakeholders to gain an understanding of the issues they face. The Route 28 corridor has long been viewed as the economic driver for the county, offering a potential for commercial development that could provide an alternative revenue stream to the county.

As part of a nine-month process to evaluate the policies and their effect on local businesses, county staff is reach-

ing out to stakeholders in the community to get their input on several issues including

- Economic development
- Fiscal Impact both for Loudoun and for the tax district
- Transportation
- Housing
- Energy Efficiency and Green Building

After the stakeholders' input, and staff will turn its attention to public input. The last part of the process will be formal Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors' discussions and public hearings. More online at www.loudoun.gov/route28.

Non-Profit Spotlight

Rotary Club of Sterling

While the April 10 Cleanup Day was larger than it's been in the past, three times a year, Rotary Club of Sterling members are out and about at Algonkian Regional Park, picking up trash and helping beautify the community. The Rotary Club of Sterling is a group of business leaders that annually gives out \$7,000 in scholarships to Eastern Loudoun students, in addition to supporting other local, national and international charities. For more information about joining the Rotary Club of Sterling, contact President Stephen Grant at rcs-info@sterlingrotary.org

If your non-profit needs volunteers, contact Supervisor Buckley's office to be considered for a listing in the Spotlight.

New System Allows Citizens to Make, Track Complaints

A new online service can help citizens place and track complaints. By going to www.loudoun.gov/servicerequests, the public may submit requests for service and report concerns to Loudoun County. The types of requests and areas of con-

cern that can be submitted using this system include:

- Zoning violations and questions
- Tall grass (uncut grass over 1' tall)
- Cable TV complaints
- Food service establishment issues

- Rodents/vermin issues
- Stormwater problems
- Engineering issues

■ Site plans/Subdivisions/Parcels
After submitting the request, residents will be able to track County responses.

Responding to Residents' Concerns

Lowes Island Neighborhood Watch Spots Suspicious Person

Thanks to quick-thinking residents and collaboration between residents, Neighborhood Watch organizers and Supervisor Buckley's Office, the Sheriff's Office was alerted to a suspicious man lurking near Lowes Island Elementary School. The Sheriff's Office stepped up patrols and identified the individual.

According to the Sheriff's Office/Lowes Island Neighborhood Watch Leader Marc Guilbault, the person of interest is an African-American male 20-30 years of age and 5'8' tall, weighing around 170 pounds. This person has a prior criminal record that includes burglary, weapons and narcotics charges.

Community vigilance is essential. Residents who see any suspicious activity should call the Sheriff's Office non-emergency number, 703-777-1021. The more information that the Sheriff's Office receives, the better.

In a separate incident, a man was charged with indecent exposure last week after exposing himself in a church parking lot on Algonkian Parkway.

Neighborhood Watch is an excellent way for communities to work together on public safety issues and share key information on local crimes. For more information:

■ Crime Prevention Unit Deputy James Spurlock, james.spurlock@loudoun.gov

■ Lowes Island Neighborhood Watch Leader Marc Guilbault, marc.guilbault@gmail.com

■ Sugarland Run District Supervisor Susan Klimek Buckley, susan.buckley@loudoun.gov

■ Lowes Island Neighborhood Watch Facebook page; search for Lowes Island / Cascades Neighborhood Watch.

Abbey Circle Test of Permit Parking

Starting in March, the Sheriff's Department began enforcing Loudoun's first-ever Residential Permit Parking District on Abbey Circle in the Sugarland Run community. Supervisor Susan Buckley worked with residents on Abbey Circle who were experiencing problem vehicles in front of their homes. Abbey Circle is a test case to see how well a Residential Permit Parking District will address their concerns. For other sections of the community, the Parking District may exacerbate parking issues. Supervisor Susan Buckley is aware of those concerns and is looking for solutions to those parking woes.

Sidewalk Construction – Finally!

March was the culmination of years of effort initiated by the River Bank Woods HOA to get a sidewalk for River Bank Street, providing community connectivity

with Cascades. Supervisor Buckley has worked closely with the HOA and county staff to ensure that the sidewalk comes to fruition. Supervisor Buckley brought forth this project, which is the first to use flex proffer dollars.

Regulations Designed to Improve Bay

As discussed at the Fall Homeowners' Association Forum, Loudoun may see new regulations, designed to protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

In 2008 and 2009, the Loudoun County Board of

Supervisors met to explore water quality protection options. After reviewing their choices, the Board approved the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Work Program, to direct staff to develop water protection criteria and related regulations. Staff has developed a draft Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area map along with related policy amendments to existing county documents.

The Planning Commission is nearing completion of its work on the proposed Chesapeake Bay Act Regulations/Amendments. The Board of Supervisors will meet with the Planning Commission to discuss the Chesapeake Bay Act Regulations/Amendments May 5. The public hearing will be May 24, 6:30 p.m. More information is online at www.loudoun.gov/chesapeakebay

Loudoun Remains AAA

All three rating agencies – Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's Corporation and Fitch Ratings – once again affirmed Loudoun County's AAA rating, noting the county's strong financial management. The excellent rating makes it less expensive for Loudoun to borrow money.

Did You Know?

**More than 50%
of the world's internet
traffic passes through
Loudoun County.**

Source: U.S. News & World Report

Events in Our Community

■ **McGruff Safety Camp:** Applications for the McGruff Safety Camps will be available after April 28 at www.loudoun.gov/sheriff. There will be morning and afternoon camps on dates in June and July.

■ **Summer Camps Guide:** The 2010 Summer Camps Guide from the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services is available online at www.loudoun.gov/camps.

■ **Hazardous Waste Disposal:** Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be May 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at River Bend Middle School, 46240 Algonkian Parkway, Sterling. Residents can bring used and unwanted household hazardous materials such as gasoline and household chemicals.